



CONGRESSMAN **JIM SENSENBRENNER** KEEPING IN TOUCH

ISSUE NUMBER 48 -- APRIL 1998

BESTEIA "PORK" HOGS BUDGET

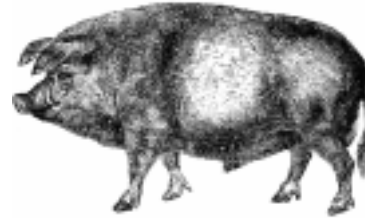
With the ink barely dry on last year's historic balanced budget agreement, the Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act (BESTEA) bill threatens to break the budget's spending caps with a litany of "pork barrel" projects. I am incensed Congress has chosen to blow a hole in the balanced budget agreement just as prospects for a budget surplus appear imminent. BESTEA diminishes prospects for a budget surplus, delaying efforts to pay down the debt, shore-up Social Security, and reduce taxes.

BESTEIA is a six-year authorization bill for highways, highway safety, and mass transportation. I had hoped to be able to support a federal transportation authorization that addressed the country's urgent infrastructure needs in a fiscally responsible fashion. BESTEA fails this test miserably. This is especially regrettable because buried between the pages of reckless spending is an important provision improving the federal gas-tax formula so states like Wisconsin will finally see a fair return on their investment into the federal highway trust fund.

BESTEIA proposes reauthorizing transportation programs at \$218 billion, \$34 billion above the 1997 budget agreement. The additional \$34 billion in spending included in the BESTEA bill means other federal programs will take deeper cuts, and taxpayers will have to wait longer to keep more of what they earn.

Additionally, BESTEA spends \$18 billion on **1,467 individual "demonstration projects"** (see box). These are line-item projects included in the bill at the request of Members. That's pork, plain and simple. These earmarks sidestep the standard process by which states prioritize their transportation needs. That's why I supported an amendment offered by Budget Committee

...continued on page 3



- Up to \$5 million for the Appalachian Development Highway System
- \$30 million for the Smithsonian Institution Transportation Program
- \$3 million for a Los Angeles, California bike path
- \$1.2 million for an elevated pedestrian walkway in Illinois
- \$10 million for a joint bike/pedestrian path in Washington, DC
- \$10 million for a New York "Noise Abatement Project"
- \$3.5 million to rehabilitate a historic train depot in California
- \$2 million for construction of a "Smart Road" utilizing magnetic levitation technology in Virginia
- \$23 million to upgrade and synchronize traffic signals in Los Angeles, California
- \$2 million for a Louisiana highway feasibility and design study
- \$1.7 million for greenway enhancements in Ohio
- \$10 million to implement a "Geographic Information System" in Washington, DC
- \$455,000 for a New York scenic overlook



REMINDER...

**OFFICE HOURS
AND
TOWN HALL
MEETINGS**

...SEE SCHEDULE
PAGES 3 & 4

1998 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE INSIDE

1998 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The 105th Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family, and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. **All questions have a YES or NO answer unless otherwise indicated.** In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please let me know what matters to you. Fill out the response card on the next page, place a stamp on it, and return it to my Washington office. Thank you for your time.

Budget

1. The Congressional Budget Office has projected budget surpluses for the next several years. How do you think the federal government should best allocate the money? (check one only)
 - a) Entirely for reduction of the national debt
 - b) Entirely for tax cuts
 - c) For both tax cuts and reduction of the national debt
 - d) For increased spending on government programs
 - e) Place surplus in a separate account specifically reserved for future Social Security payments after the year 2029, when it is projected that Social Security tax revenues will not cover obligations to the beneficiaries

Tax Reform

2. Congress is considering various tax reform proposals. Which of the following options are you most inclined to support? (check one only)
 - a) A national sales tax that completely replaces the current income tax system
 - b) A flat tax that maintains deductions for home mortgage interest and charitable deductions
 - c) A flat tax with no deductions
 - d) Keeping the current system

Campaign Finance

3. Should Congress pass the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation that prohibits private individuals and organizations from advertising a candidate's voting record within 90 days prior to an election?
4. Should unions be required to seek approval from individuals before spending a member's mandatory dues on political campaigns?

Medicare

5. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 saved Medicare for the next ten years. Should Congress: (check one only)
 - a) Extend Medicare coverage to Americans aged 55 to 65
 - b) Develop a plan to ensure the long-term solvency of Medicare

Human Cloning

6. Should Congress pass a law banning the cloning of human embryos?

Global Warming

7. Should the United States sign a global warming treaty that exempts China, Mexico, and many of the world's developing nations?

Abortion

8. Should the United States government help fund international family planning organizations that promote abortion?

Agriculture/Resources

9. Should farmers and other landowners be compensated if federal regulations lower the value of their land by over 25 percent?

Indian Gambling

10. Do you oppose Indian gambling beyond what's legal under state law?

Healthcare

11. Congress is considering legislation that would require Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) to disclose more information to consumers, allow consumers to pay higher premiums to see a doctor outside of their HMO plan and prohibit "anti-gag" rules that prevent open communications between doctors and patients.

Are you in favor of these reforms?

Foreign Policy

12. Should the United States give \$18 billion to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) effort to shore up Asian economies?
13. Should Congress give the United Nations \$820 million in back dues even though the U.S. contributes billions of dollars to UN peacekeeping missions that are not counted towards our UN dues assessment?
14. U.S. troops have been in Bosnia for 2 and ½ years. Which of the following options do you prefer to address the U.S. role in Bosnia? (check one only)
 - a) Pull the troops out now
 - b) Continue U.S. involvement indefinitely
 - c) Allow the troops to stay up to a year longer

Education

15. Do you support eliminating funding for the Department of Education bureaucracy and sending that money to local school boards and districts to spend as needed?

Defense

16. Should male and female military recruits be trained together or separately?
 - a) Together
 - b) Separately

Transportation

17. Do you support repealing a large portion of the 18.4 -cent per gallon federal gasoline tax thereby permitting states to determine its transportation budget needs?
18. Do you support breaking last year's balanced budget agreement in order to increase federal transportation spending?

Insurance Reform

19. When purchasing auto insurance, would you like to have the choice to forgo the option to sue for pain and suffering in exchange for 25 percent lower insurance premiums?

Tobacco Settlement

In the coming weeks, Congress may consider legislation to write into law many of the terms of the tentative class action tobacco lawsuit settlement between state attorneys general and the tobacco companies.

20. Do you support including provisions in this legislation requiring tobacco companies to pay billions of dollars to state and federal governments in exchange for immunity from future class action lawsuits and limitations on future tobacco company liability?
21. If Congress does approve this settlement, should it place limitations on the fees the attorneys who worked on the cases may receive?

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

Respondent # 1

YES	NO	YES	NO
1. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>		12. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/>		13. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/>		16. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Respondent # 2

YES	NO	YES	NO
1. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>		12. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/>		13. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/>		16. a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, April 13

12:15 p.m. Wales Village Hall
1:45 p.m. North Prairie Village Hall
2:30 p.m. Palmyra Village Hall
3:30 p.m. Dousman Village Hall

Tuesday, April 14

8:30 a.m. Iron Ridge Village Hall
9:15 a.m. Neosho Village Hall
10:00 a.m. Lebanon Town Hall
10:45 a.m. Hustisford Village Hall
11:30 a.m. Clyman Village Hall
1:00 p.m. Lowell Village Hall
1:45 p.m. Reeseville Village Hall
2:30 p.m. Waterloo City Hall

Wednesday, April 15

8:30 a.m. Nashotah Village Hall
9:15 a.m. Merton Village Hall

10:00 a.m. Pewaukee Village Hall
10:45 a.m. Sussex Village Hall
12:15 p.m. Butler Village Hall
1:00 p.m. Lannon Village Hall
1:45 p.m. Slinger Village Hall
2:30 p.m. Jackson Village Hall
3:30 p.m. Newburg Village Hall

Thursday, April 16

8:30 a.m. Burnett Town Hall
9:15 a.m. Waupun City Hall
10:00 a.m. Brownsville Village Hall
10:45 a.m. Kekoskee Village Hall
11:30 a.m. Lomira Village Hall
1:00 p.m. Theresa Village Hall
1:45 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall
2:45 p.m. Addison Town Hall
3:30 p.m. Rubicon Town Hall
4:15 p.m. Ashippun Town Hall

Friday, April 17

8:30 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall
9:15 a.m. Helenville Firehall
10:00 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall
10:45 a.m. Ixonia Town Hall

Monday, April 27

8:30 a.m. Howards Grove Village Hall
9:15 a.m. Kohler Village Hall
10:00 a.m. Oostburg State Bank
10:45 a.m. Adell Senior Center
11:30 a.m. Random Lake Library
12:15 p.m. Cedar Grove Library

Friday, May 15

8:30 a.m. Belgium Village Hall
9:15 a.m. Fredonia Village Hall
10:00 a.m. Saukville Village Hall
11:00 a.m. Mequon Safety Building

continued from page 1...

Chairman John Kasich which would dramatically cut the federal gas tax and allow states to determine their own transportation budgets. Unfortunately, the amendment failed.

Additionally, BESTEA allows for light rail along the I-94 east/west corridor. Time and again, this plan has failed to win local approval. Allowing this costly boondoggle to proceed is against the wishes of the local citizens in Wisconsin.

My highest priority since coming to Congress

has been to balance the budget and get our country's finances in order. I believe all federal programs should carry their own weight in the effort to cut budget outlays and help us stay the course to the budget balance. Just a year out from last year's balanced budget agreement, I simply cannot support the recklessness of this extravagant spending bill because it lays waste the painstaking effort to get this country out of the red. The House passed the BESTEA bill by a vote of 337 to 80. ■

PLEASE PRINT BELOW

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

If you do not wish to be added to my
regular mailing list, check this box ☐

Please
place
32 cent
stamp here

REP. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
2332 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4909

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Monday, April 13

7:00 p.m. Sheboygan Falls City Hall
375 Buffalo St.

Tuesday, April 14

7:00 p.m. Germantown Village Hall
N112 W17001 Mequon Rd.

Wednesday, April 15

7:00 p.m. Watertown Municipal Building
Room 69, Lower Level
106 Jones St.

Thursday, April 16

7:00 p.m. Grafton Village Hall
1971 Washington St.

Saturday, April 25

9:00 a.m. Pewaukee Town Hall
W240 N3065 Pewaukee Rd.

1:00 p.m. Horicon City Hall
404 E. Lake St.

Sunday, April 26

12:00 p.m. Eagle Village Hall
820 E. Main St.

Sunday, May 17

12:00 p.m. Thiensville Village Hall
250 Elm St.

Congressman

**JIM
SENSENBRENNER**



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4909

Official Business

M.C.
Bulk Rate

**Postal Patron -- Local
9th Congressional District
Wisconsin**

2332 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5101

120 Bishops Way, #154
Brookfield, WI 53005
(414) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: 1-800-242-1119

E-Mail: sensen09@mail.house.gov

<http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>

Printed on Partially Recycled Paper
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.